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MONTANA LABOR MARKET

Monthly Review of
EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK, LABOR SUPPLY, LABOR DEMAND, CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

Division of Unemployment Compensation Commission of Montana

Edgar H. Reeder, Chairman

Rex F. Hibbs, Commissioner

UCC Building — P. O. Box 1728 — Helena, Montana James J. Flaherty, Commissioner

FL. 266

HELENA INDEPENDENT RECORD
HELENA, MONTANA

SEPT.-OCT., 1965

Record Employment Peak of 188,300 for 1965

High Employment Continues—The monthly employment totals of non-farm wage earners continued to stay at record breaking levels during August and September. The non-farm employment peak for this year was apparently reached in August when 188,300 wage earners were on payrolls of industry and commerce. Non-farm employment in September, estimated at 186,900, reflected a seasonal drop of 1,400 from the peak August level, but was still 2,000 above the September, 1964 employment figure. Outdoor employment in a few industries was temporarily thrown off schedule during both August and September because of unseasonable weather, but rebounded rapidly when the weather cleared. Barring bad weather, employment should keep well above the normal seasonal levels during October and November.

Seasonal Changes Begin—Seasonality factors which start operating in the Montana economy every time this year resulted in some employment changes during September. The wind-up of the tourist season and the closure of some facilities at national parks and other resort areas were prime factors in reduced employment in trade and service groups. Trade employment was down seasonally by 800 from the August total while service industry groups posted a minus 500 during the same period. Trade employment, however, was still 500 higher than September, 1964.

Manufacturing Exhibits Strong Trends—Employment in manufacturing industries showed a healthy gain of 1,300 from September, 1964. The increase from August to September this year was 400 workers. The over the year gain shows the largest increase in lumber industry payrolls, up 600, and in primary metals, up 500. Vegetable canning operations in the Billings area was chiefly responsible for a gain of 200 workers in the non-durable goods segment. Payrolls in this group will show a further rise during October with the start of sugar refining operations at four plants in the state.

Over-the-Year Gain in Five Industries—Payrolls of five major industry groups were higher this September than in September, 1964. In addition to manufacturing, employment was up 300 in the transportation, utilities and communications group; 500 in trade industries, with a 300 gain in retail trade and 200 at the wholesale level; 100 in finance, insurance and real estate firms; and 1,300 in government. Employment in the state and local levels of government increased by 1,500, a natural occurrence for this time of the year with the opening of schools and colleges. Federal employment dropped by 200 reflecting normal seasonal declines in national parks, and forest service, and other facilities. Seasonal factors were mostly responsible for declines in three other industry groups from September a year ago. Payrolls

in construction, mining, and service industries were all down 500 from September, 1964.

Farm Front Active—After a late start because of wet, cold weather which threw many farm and harvest activities behind normal schedules, agricultural activity set a brisk pace during late September and early October. Clearing weather permitted resumption of grain harvests and made heavy demands for farm workers. The start of the sugar beet and potato harvests intensified the demand. Yields of potatoes were reduced in some areas because of frost damage. The sugar beet harvest is well underway. Four state sugar beet refining plants will operate until after the first of the year employing several thousand workers. The Christmas tree harvest is active in the northwest section of the state. Cutting, sorting, grading and shipping of trees plus manufacture of decorative material will employ about 1,000 workers until early December.

UCC Claims Lowest in Past 10 Years—Reflecting the continued strength of Montana's economy, claims for unemployment insurance are at the lowest level in 10 years. For the first week in October, Montana's ratio of insured unemployment was 1.4 per cent against the national average of 2.0 per cent. For the past several months, Montana has ranked among the lowest in the nation in the number of insured jobless workers.

LABOR TURNOVER RATES IN MANUFACTURING AND MINING INDUSTRIES

(per 100 employees)

(Compiled in cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	ACCESSION RATE						SEPARATION RATE								
	Total			New Hire			Total			Quit			Layoff		
	Aug. 1965	July 1965	Aug. 1964	Aug. 1965	July 1965	Aug. 1964	Aug. 1965	July 1965	Aug. 1964	Aug. 1965	July 1965	Aug. 1964	Aug. 1965	July 1965	Aug. 1964
All Manufacturing	6.3	5.3	4.9	5.4	4.8	4.3	6.6	5.6	5.3	4.3	2.5	3.1	1.0	1.8	.7
Durable Goods	8.0	6.2	5.2	6.9	5.7	4.4	7.7	5.9	6.1	5.1	3.1	3.6	.9	1.3	.8
Primary Metal	6.4	5.0	4.8	3.2	3.9	3.0	4.4	5.4	7.2	2.5	1.3	2.6	*	.5	.1
Nondurable Goods	2.9	3.4	4.5	2.3	3.0	4.0	4.3	5.0	3.7	2.7	1.3	2.2	1.2	3.0	.7
All Mining	6.9	8.9	8.7	2.5	3.5	5.2	7.6	5.5	7.0	3.9	2.9	4.2	.8	.9	1.0
Metal Mining	7.3	7.8	7.3	2.7	2.9	2.6	6.8	6.2	6.2	4.4	3.2	3.4	*	.7	.5

*Less Than .05

Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary for October 1

ANACONDA, Deer Lodge, Phillipsburg—Economic trends exhibited good strength for early fall season. Employment in smelter and construction activities show good gains. Construction of job corps camp underway. Potato harvest delayed several weeks by bad weather. Favorable employment demands expected to continue next two months.

BILLINGS, Columbus, Hardin, Laurel, Red Lodge, Roundup—Adverse weather conditions through much of September temporarily delayed some outdoor work, but caused no significant employment changes. Good schedule of building construction in progress including new post office and shopping center in west Billings, \$450,000 county hospital, and high-rise college dormitory. Work on main structure of Yellowstone Dam winding up with about 450 employed. Trade activity spurred by back to school buying. Service industries hold to steady trends. Harvest of 35,000 acres of sugar beets underway; two refineries will employ 800 plant workers during the seasons run.

BOZEMAN, Ennis, Three Forks, Trident—Seasonal changes reflected in decreased tourism, seasons end at Yellowstone National Park and resort centers and some decline in manufacturing. Completed construction projects include \$1.6 million high school and a new main street. Peak capacity continues in logging and sawmill operations with persistent shortage of timber fallers. Trade and service volume holds at good levels at opening of school and university. Harvest of 550 acres of potatoes will require farm workers during October.

BUTTE, Virginia City, Whitehall—Upswing in metal mining employment noted with hiring of students miners and contract trainees. Wet weather caused some construction slowdown primarily in highway projects. Downtown site being prepared for new bank building. Plans announced for high-rise motel with \$3.5 million valuation. Trade employment advanced with opening of new variety store.

CUT BANK—Job hiring declined during September due to severe weather conditions. All farm and ranch activities at near standstill with only about 15% of grain crops harvested. Several construction projects also suspended. Trade and service volume at near seasonal levels.

MONTANA CIVILIAN WORK FORCE

(In Thousands)

	Sept. 65	Aug. 65	Sept. 64	Aug. 65	Sept. 64
Civilian Work Force	263.3	273.4	259.8	—10.1	3.5
Total Employment	253.0	263.3	250.8	—10.3	2.2
Total Non-agricultural Employment	218.9	220.1	215.6	—1.2	3.3
(Non-agricultural Wage & Salary)	186.9	188.3	184.9	—1.4	2.0
Total Agricultural Employment	34.1	43.2	35.2	—9.1	—1.1
Labor Management Disputes	.2	.2	.2	.0	.0
Total Unemployment	10.1	9.9	8.8	.2	1.3
Percent Unemployed	3.8	3.6	3.4
U. S. Unemployment Rate	NA	4.2	4.5

DILLON—30 days of cold, wet weather delayed hay, grain and potato harvest with some frost damage to crops. 50% loss estimated in potato fields. Good agenda of building and highway projects active in area. Plans underway for construction of new supermarket.

GLASGOW, Fort Peck, Malta, Opheim—Bad weather continued to hold many farm and construction projects in check during September. Critical shortage of farm workers developed as many left the area for other employment elsewhere. Heavy losses in hay and grain crops noted. Hiring by main street firms holding up fairly well.

GLEN DIVE, Circle, Wibaux—Construction trends generally slow but work continues on several building projects. Contract let for new junior college with work to start when weather improves. Some upturn noted in oil field activities. Moderate increases occurred in trade industry hiring. Sugar beet harvest now underway.

GREAT FALLS, Choteau, Fort Benton, Stanford—Major portion of September hires occurred in trade and manufacturing. Smelter hiring up as number of production units increased and replacements needed for students quitting to return to school. Construction employment now at peak with but few new hires. September building permits totaled \$1.8 million. Farm activities set back by bad weather.

HAMILTON, Stevensville—Active jobseeker files twice that of a year ago. Of 163 registered applicants, 103 are female. September job hires were mostly in construction, lumbering and trade industry groups. Shortages of farm labor exist for hay, grain and potato harvest.

HAVRE, Chinook, Harlem—Hiring in industry and farm kept fairly active despite bad weather. Several building projects on good schedule, but with lit-

tle hiring. Some railroad hiring noted during the month. Main street, trade and service firms keep at good seasonal pace. Farm labor demand increasing as weather clears; worker shortages anticipated.

HELENA, Boulder, Garrison, Townsend, White Sulphur Springs—No significant changes noted in labor market activity during past 2 months. Temporary weather-caused layoffs in construction, logging and lumbering common during the period. Good demand existed for food service, clerical and sales workers. Farm labor demand slowed by bad weather.

KALISPELL, Columbia Falls, Eureka, Libby, Whitefish—Heavy demand for building craftsmen including carpenters, electricians, bricklayers and plumbers exhausted local supply. Inventory of service workers increased as tourist season ended. Sharp demands for woods and sawmill workers with orders for 100 workers from one mill alone. Building and highway construction at good pace. Christmas tree harvest off to early start.

LEWISTOWN, Harlowton, Ryegate, Winnett—Labor demand in farm and industry restricted by bad weather. Industrial job placements below last year by 45%. Grain harvest behind normal schedule. Construction agenda includes remodeling of two commercial units, street repair and rebuilding of grain elevator.

LIVINGSTON, Big Timber—Rain and snow depressed employment activity in most industries during September. Very little construction work in evidence. Work on new bank should start early October weather permitting. Main street business not too brisk. Some weather-caused losses noted in hay and grain fields.

MILES CITY, Baker, Ekalaka, Broadus, Jordan, Terry—Bad weather left its mark on the local employment scene

NINE YEARS OF MONTANA INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT TOTALS, BY MONTHS (in Thousands)

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Aver.
1956	156.6	154.4	156.3	163.0	169.3	177.4	177.4	179.8	177.2	174.6	170.4	166.7	168.6
1957	156.8	155.0	156.8	161.3	166.0	172.0	174.2	174.2	170.8	167.4	163.2	159.9	164.8
1958	153.1	150.3	150.5	156.4	162.4	167.1	170.2	172.2	170.0	168.8	165.8	162.4	162.4
1959	155.3	153.2	155.9	162.2	167.5	174.0	177.5	179.2	169.9	165.6	161.5	159.4	165.1
1960	152.7	152.5	156.1	163.5	168.4	175.8	176.9	177.7	174.8	171.6	167.5	164.5	166.8
1961	156.9	154.8	156.1	160.2	165.1	173.3	176.0	178.1	176.8	172.4	169.0	166.2	167.1
1962	158.3	158.2	159.6	166.2	172.4	180.1	180.5	181.2	178.6	176.6	175.1	173.5	171.7
1963	163.9	163.0	165.0	170.2	175.1	181.0	182.3	183.8	181.5	179.7	176.6	173.6	174.6
1964	166.2	164.3	165.1	169.1	174.2	182.4	185.5	187.2	184.9	182.2	178.4	175.4	176.2
1965	163.3	167.3	169.3	174.2	178.9	187.2	187.3	188.3	186.9*				

*Preliminary Estimate

All employment estimate revised on the basis of more complete reports. Industry detail for the period Jan. 1964 to date will be supplied in a future supplement to this publication.

Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary for October 1

during much of September. Activity in most outdoor work cut sharply. Fairly active demand for trade industry workers. Farm labor demand less than last year.

MISSOULA, Drummond, Arlee Superior—Outdoor employment, cut by bad weather for several weeks, rebounded as September ended. Peak employment totals now evident in most industries. Strong trends hold firm in construction and manufacturing. Trade and services volume up seasonally. Late farm season finds short supply of workers.

POLSON—Hiring in industry and farm exceeded last year despite some problem weather. Employment in most industry groups kept at good levels. Temporary closure of one mill idling 70 workers about the only negative factor in an otherwise healthy labor picture. Good schedule of farm work awaits better weather.

SHELBY—Employment showed moderate gains in construction and trade and service industries despite weather. Work continues on new supermarket. Farm job placements exceeded last year by 150 as harvest season lengthened due to weather conditions.

SIDNEY—Good seasonal trends cover most industry groups with exception of oil field activity where some decline is shown from last year. Construction slow with only 3 building projects in progress and no new highway work. Continued wet weather delayed start of sugar beet and potato harvest.

THOMPSON FALLS, Hot Springs—Increased activity in the lumber industry accounted for nearly half of September job hiring. Some construction layoffs noted as jobs completed. Good activity on main street with some worker shortages including cooks and waitresses.

WOLF POINT, Plentywood, Scobey—Hiring in construction and trade industry fairly active during September. New building starts included a Popular bank and a hospital addition at Scobey. Oil industry trends stable with 4 to 5 rigs in drilling locations. Farm labor shortages developed as work increased with improved weather.

ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES IN MONTANA (1)

(Compiled in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT			Net Change	
	Sept. 1965 (2)	Aug. 1965 (3)	Sept. 1964	Aug. '65 to Sept. '65	Sept. '65 Against Sept. '64
NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES	186,900	188,300	184,900	-1,400	2,000
Manufacturing	23,600	23,200	22,300	400	1,300
Durable goods	15,500	15,300	14,200	200	1,300
Lumber and timber products	9,700	9,600	9,100	100	600
Primary metals	3,800	3,800	3,300	00	500
Other (4)	2,000	1,900	1,800	100	200
Nondurable goods	8,100	7,900	8,100	200	00
Food and kindred products	4,300	4,100	4,400	200	-100
Printing and publishing	1,800	1,800	1,600	00	200
Petroleum refining	1,100	1,100	1,200	00	-100
Other (5)	900	900	900	00	00
Mining	7,600	7,600	8,100	00	-500
Metal mining	4,700	4,700	5,000	00	-300
Coal, quarrying and nonmetallic	1,200	1,100	1,100	100	100
Petroleum-natural gas production	1,700	1,800	2,000	-100	-300
Contract Construction	13,600	14,500	14,100	-900	-500
Contractors, building construction	2,400	2,600	4,300	-200	-1,900
Contractors, other than building	7,500	7,800	5,700	-300	1,800
Contractors, special trade	3,700	4,100	4,100	-400	-400
Transportation and utilities	18,300	18,500	18,000	-200	300
Interstate railroads	7,700	7,900	7,900	-200	-200
Transportation except railroads	4,300	4,300	4,000	00	300
Utilities including communication	6,300	6,300	6,100	00	200
Trade	43,700	44,500	43,200	-800	500
Wholesale trade	8,900	9,100	8,700	-200	200
Retail trade	34,800	35,400	34,500	-600	300
General merchandise and apparel	6,700	6,700	6,400	00	300
Food stores	5,700	5,700	5,400	00	300
Eating and drinking establishments	9,400	9,900	9,200	-500	200
Automotive and filling stations	7,000	7,100	7,100	-100	-100
Retail trade not elsewhere classified	6,000	6,000	6,400	00	-400
Finance, insurance and real estate	7,100	7,200	7,000	-100	100
Services and miscellaneous	26,000	26,500	26,500	-500	-500
Hotels, rooming houses, camps, etc.	3,900	4,400	4,100	-200	-200
Personal services	2,100	2,100	2,200	-100	-100
Other (6)	20,000	20,000	20,200	-200	-200
Government	47,000	46,300	45,700	700	1,300
Federal	12,700	13,500	12,900	-800	-200
State and local	34,300	32,800	32,800	1,500	1,500
Great Falls Area (Cascade County)	23,100	23,200	22,900	-100	200
Manufacturing	3,300	3,300	3,400	00	-100
Contract construction	2,600	2,700	2,600	-100	00
Transportation and utilities	2,100	2,100	2,100	00	00
Trade, wholesale and retail	5,800	5,900	5,700	-100	100
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	1,300	1,300	1,300	00	00
Services and miscellaneous (7)	3,600	3,700	3,700	-100	-100
Government	4,400	4,200	4,100	200	300
Billings Area (Yellowstone County)	25,900	24,800	25,500	200	-500
Manufacturing	3,000	2,800	3,200	200	-200
Contract construction	1,700	1,700	1,900	00	-200
Transportation and utilities	2,500	2,500	2,700	00	-200
Trade, wholesale and retail	7,600	7,700	7,600	-100	00
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	1,500	1,500	1,500	00	00
Services and Miscellaneous (7)	4,700	4,600	4,700	100	00
Government	4,000	4,000	3,900	00	100

(1) Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Proprietors, firm members, personnel of the armed forces, domestic servants, and self-employed persons are excluded.

(2) Preliminary estimates based on return from samples of 708 selected Montana establishments.

(3) Figures previously released have been revised on return from 1,182 such establishments.

(4) Includes fabricated metal products, machinery except electrical, furniture, stone and clay products.

(5) Includes apparel, chemicals, and miscellaneous manufacturing products.

(6) Includes commercial trade schools, auto repair services and garages, miscellaneous repair services and hand trades, motion pictures, amusements and recreation, medical and health, law offices and professional services, non-profit member-

ship organizations and businesses not otherwise classified.

(7) Same as (6) above. Also includes hotels rooming houses, camps, personal services and mining

COMPARISON OF BASIC LABOR MARKET ACTIVITIES IN SEPT. 1965 AND SEPT. 1964

Employment Service Office	New Job Applicants				Jobseekers in File				Job Placements								UI Claims*	
	Sept. 1965		Sept. 1964		Sept. 1965		Sept. 1964		Sept. 1965				Sept. 1964				Wk. 10-2	
	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	1965	1964
Anaconda	93	10	106	17	192	28	189	21	125	30	155	27	87	115	202	41	73	95
Billings	622	115	738	110	1,364	255	1,778	256	670	464	1,134	358	748	645	1,393	239	474	411
Bozeman	268	36	295	33	259	30	170	7	227	82	309	40	245	105	350	66	54	38
Butte	443	71	298	32	1,033	130	732	92	222	7	229	39	124	13	137	29	268	289
Cut Bank	83	13	32	2	176	28	138	26	36	63	99	42	100	87	187	97	46	39
Dillon	71	15	41	10	80	8	52	7	50	78	128	32	41	110	151	41	21	25
Glasgow	60	4	86	7	90	4	92	1	82	47	129	20	95	41	136	34	29	51
Glendive	71	1	41	3	110	2	87	6	50	48	98	8	49	41	90	8	28	13
Great Falls	539	56	536	66	1,078	111	1,030	155	437	294	731	147	416	190	606	144	289	395
Hamilton	78	8	65	7	163	11	84	7	108	167	275	15	55	132	187	9	30	32
Havre	53	1	56	6	91	14	96	18	81	251	332	37	61	134	195	43	47	60
Helena	229	29	234	22	341	59	339	45	233	41	274	64	178	73	251	75	158	117
Kalispell	335	56	268	38	516	80	511	67	319	53	372	77	347	43	390	73	154	179
Lewistown	59	9	65	8	83	11	81	9	41	125	166	22	66	122	188	30	35	46
Livingston	52	9	74	7	95	11	104	11	78	26	104	11	120	23	143	26	38	48
Miles City	94	2	99	6	107	4	156	8	84	72	156	31	95	45	140	25	24	28
Missoula	596	63	517	66	905	124	731	109	448	54	502	100	444	58	502	111	156	185
Polson	92	14	45	3	203	37	101	16	70	14	84	20	28	5	33	8	87	52
Shelby	46	13	66	28	48	6	46	10	66	254	320	47	56	62	118	49	18	14
Sidney	60	8	59	6	72	4	74	2	29	34	73	22	96	93	189	41	13	7
Thom. Falls	48	10	34	4	64	10	47	10	79	79	79	18	64	2	66	11	30	20
Wolf Point	55	3	45	6	64	8	60	15	34	38	72	5	45	71	116	14	41	34
Billings YOC**	285				639				257	5	262							
TOTALS	4,332	546	3,809	487	7,773	975	6,698	898	3,836	2,247	6,083	1,182	3,560	2,210	5,770	1,217	2,113	2,178

*Includes 103 claims of the Fed. UC Program 160 same a year ago. **Youth Opportunity Center.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN SELECTED MONTANA INDUSTRIES

(Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)
(Hours and earnings data exclude administrative and salaried personnel)

INDUSTRY	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Sept. (1) 1965	Aug. (2) 1965	Sept. 1964	Sept. (1) 1965	Aug. (2) 1965	Sept. 1964	Sept. (1) 1965	Aug. (2) 1965	Sept. 1964
All Manufacturing	119.99	120.13	116.34	42.4	42.3	41.7	2.83	2.84	2.79
Durable Goods	116.48	116.20	115.45	41.9	41.8	42.6	2.78	2.78	2.71
Primary Metals	116.35	116.47	126.48	40.4	40.3	42.3	2.88	2.89	2.99
Nondurable Goods	127.60	129.06	118.10	43.7	43.6	39.9	2.92	2.96	2.96
Food and Kindred Products	121.23	127.47	105.92	48.3	49.6	41.7	2.51	2.57	2.54
All Mining	119.14	119.14	123.01	37.0	37.0	40.2	3.22	3.22	3.06
Metal Mining	116.27	116.27	117.48	34.5	34.5	38.9	3.37	3.37	3.02
Transportation and Utilities (except Rys.)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Transportation (except railroads)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Utilities and Communications	111.95	111.95	111.32	39.7	39.7	39.9	2.82	2.82	2.79

(1) Preliminary estimates. (2) Figures previously released have been revised on more complete returns.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION
COMMISSION OF MONTANA

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